

## Perils of the Hardened Heart

Sunday School Lesson for April 24, 1921

Scripture, Isaiah 5:8-10; Amos 8:4-7; Luke 16:19-25.

By Rev. F. E. Davison

Nature does not change. It has remained the same from the beginning of time. The vices against which the prophets thundered a thousand years before Christ are the same vices which obtain two thousand years after Christ. Greed, graft, gouging, the love of ease, indifference, idleness, faithlessness, all these we find everywhere present in Israel centuries before Christ made his proclamation of peace and good will to men. And precisely the same warnings are given today. The manner of existing vice may change, but there is no new vice more pernicious than the old. The hands of the prophet are the hands of another age, but the voice is the voice of the 20th century.

One has to take a walk along the "great white way" of any American city witnessing the gay revels intent upon the joys of "the hot bird and the cold bottle," together with the Salome "cabaret" to add another form of sensuality to the indulgence and he will be assured the degenerate Hebrew of old time and the riotous American of modern times are chips of the same block.

## STARTLING STATISTICS

Take these startling statistics: It is said that if a working man could earn \$1000 a day he would have to work 847 years and never take a day off in order to be as wealthy as some Americans are.

If Adam had lived 6000 years and have accumulated half as much wealth as several men in America have managed to accumulate in the last 40 years.

When Egypt was destroyed as a great civilization 2% of her population owned 97% of her wealth.

When Persia fell 1% of her population owned all the land.

When Babylon went down to destruction 2% of her population owned all the wealth.

When Rome met her fate 1800 men owned all the then known world.

Are we headed the same way? In England, Ireland and Wales there are 40,000,000 people and 100,000 own all the land in the United Kingdom. That is one-fourth of 1%.

## THE ANCIENT BILLY SUNDAY

In the United States in 1850 capitalists owned 37% of the nation's wealth. In 1870 they owned 63%. Now 5% of the people own 95% of the country's wealth.

Explain this as you may, the fact is of startling moment.

It is not a crime to be rich, but it is a crime to use riches as many people do.

It is not a disgrace to be poor, but it is mighty inconvenient always.

The prophet Amos was the Billy Sunday of ancient times, and when he spoke against the sins of his times he used language that the common people understood. It was red hot criticism. No fashionable congregation would stand for it these days. Some of his descriptions took the skin off, cut to the quick, and undoubtedly made a good many enemies for Amos.

He called the fashionable women drunken cows. He charged them with the grossest immorality. He said they were a nation of grafters and bribe takers. He showed up their treatment of the poor, and how they built palaces using their ill-gotten gains for the purpose, and considering human life of so little account that "they sold the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes."

He denounced their drunkenness, their extravagant banquets, their luxurious furniture, their voluptuous, rag-time music. He declared that the whole nation was morally rotten.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

What would Amos say now if he was to return and behold the ingratitude, the voluptuousness, the stubbornness, the hypocrisy, the covetousness, the oppression of the poor, the sweat shop, the child labor, the underpaid sales girls, the slums, the false weights and balances, the callousness, heedlessness and the hard-heartedness, the moral wrongs and social miseries of vast numbers of people? We do not know what Amos would say, but we do know what Jesus said. In the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus he vividly teaches that it is better to be one of God's rich poor men than to be one of the Devil's poor rich men.

The condition of the good man under the most wretched earthly circumstances is infinitely better than the state of the bad man under the most favorable circumstances. The rich man of the parable did not stone the beggar off the premises, he did not set the dogs on him, he did not abuse him. He simply ignored him. Just as in New York recently while a ball costing \$50,000 was in progress at Delmonico's, out on the curb stone shivered a woman with a dead baby in her arms, starved and frozen to death.

The rich man of the parable was simply a well-fed, well-clothed, well-housed animal. And if he saw the beggar at all, the slight made no more impression on his mind than if he had been a dog. Sympathy for suffering never crossed the threshold of his door. No wonder he went to hell.

Let us be fair however, Christ does not say that all rich men are like that. No! There are many rich men who are the most generous supporters of all that is beneficent; their purse strings are always loose; their names are written in heaven. This earth would be a chaos if it were not for so many great and conscientious rich men. But there is always danger that when riches increase men will set their hearts upon them, and dry up the fountain of sympathy in the soul. The poor we shall always have with us. There will always be the need of the helping hand.

There are three practical lessons for the times in this scripture viz:—

I. Sensuous self-indulgence always suffers a visible judgment.

II. Sensuous self-indulgence always hardens the heart.

III. Sensuous self-indulgence saps the strength of conscience.

The good points of a horse are pointed out by many people. In man they are noted by a few.

# The American Legion

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

## IN PLEA FOR NEGLECTED MEN

Three Thousand Veterans From Legion Ranks Are Explaining Situation to American People.

Three thousand volunteer speakers from the ranks of the American Legion in every state are now carrying by word-of-mouth to the American people the Legion's story of the "suffering, shameful neglect and injustice" in the government's administration of the nation's debt to the disabled, which was contained in the formal memorial which the Legion has presented to President Wilson, President-elect Harding, and to all members of congress. Probably never before in the history of the country has such an army of orators been mobilized to speak at the same time upon a single text.

The Legion aims to present to the people of the United States the facts regarding the disabled in the same language as they were presented to the officials of the government. The Legion's memorial was carried to the President at the White House by John Thomas Taylor, vice chairman of the Legion National Legislative committee. National Commander F. W. Galbraith, Jr., gave it to Senator Harding at Marion, where he had a long and important conference on the disabled situation with the next President.

The Legion denounces the present method of caring for the disabled as a "failure" which only can be remedied by the entire reconstruction of the federal machinery dealing with the problem.

The functions of the three agencies, which deal with the problems of the disabled, the bureau of war risk insurance, the federal board for vocational education, and the United States public health service, "must be co-ordinated, their machinery decentralized and all three placed under common control," the memorial states.

As an equally essential remedy for existing conditions, the memorial urges the immediate appropriation for the use of the unified organization of a sum ample to build or rent a sufficient number of hospitals to take care of the 16,900 ex-service men who are "unable to receive treatment at present because of lack of beds and shelter."

The "failure" of the government to afford justice to the sick and wounded veterans is attributed by the Legion to "an astonishing state of divided responsibility and wasted effort among the government agencies with which the problem rests."

The break in the chain of responsibility occurs, according to the memorial, as a result of the fact that the war risk bureau is under and responsible to an assistant secretary of the treasury, an officer of the executive branch of the government, while the federal board for vocational education is responsible only to congress, and is under none of the executive departments of the government.

The memorial asserts that the United States has been more liberal than any other nation in its provisions for the disabled soldiers, but that it has failed in large measure to make these provisions available in spite of the benefit of the experience of other nations in the recent war and the experience of this nation in previous wars.

"In the rehabilitation of a disabled man there are three needs—medical treatment, vocational training and financial support," the memorial states. "The government has recognized the three needs, but overlooks the fact that they are the simultaneous needs of one man, not of three different men or of one man at three different times. It makes three problems out of what really is one problem."

"Continuing this faulty conception, it has given the problem over to three agencies. All, by force of circumstances, are exercising functions they were not intended to exercise. This presents an amazing spectacle of administrative chaos, duplication, wasted energy and conflict, which is the key to the present condition."

"The result is the suffering of the disabled veterans. Thousands are waiting and have waited for months for compensation for their injuries. Thousands have waited for months for an opportunity to re-establish themselves as self-sustaining members of society by vocational training. Thousands are in need of hospitalization, and the government has no hospital facilities available for them. Of

concerning Baldness.

A majority of men who have amounted to anything have gone bald. To go bald before amounting to anything is the lot of millions. Among those millions are many who feel that the first kingdom of the world would be compensation for loss of hair, even if the perquisites of a king did not include an allowance for a court wig-maker. Even without a crown as a consolation, there is a certain solace in not having to wonder whether your scalplock is standing perpendicularly when the occasion calls for solemnity.—Exchange.

President Zachary Taylor.

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## CALEDONIA COUNTY

## SHEFFIELD

Mrs. James Dopp is gaining slowly. Heman McClure appears to be failing.

Mrs. A. O. Gray visited her daughter in Lyndon last week.

Mabel Player of Glover visited at Onie Simpson's recently.

Harry Simpson of St. Johnsbury is stopping at Onie Simpson's.

Carr Ford of Lyndon Center visited at Delia Jenness' last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chesley of St. Johnsbury were visitors in town last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McClure of Lyndonville visited at Delia Jenness' last week.

Mrs. Ray Jenness of Lyndon and child are stopping with her parents for a time.

Lillian Green of Lyndonville visited her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Gray, last week.

Mrs. Patterson, sister of James Dopp, formerly of this town but for the past few years living in the West, has come to care for Mrs. Dopp.

## SUTTON

A. D. Fogg of Burke has a gang of men sawing the logs at the Parker-Young mill.

School commenced Monday at the North school with Mrs. Anna S. Allen as teacher.

Mrs. James Miles and family have moved into the house of the late Stephen Chesley.

R. H. Vance and son have purchased a Davis truck for use in their large farming operations.

The state evangelist will hold meetings at the Baptist church Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Mrs. Ruth Turnbull, who has been sick for a long time, still remains very ill at Brightbrook hospital.

H. D. Chapman, who has been confined to the house since February is better and gets out some every day.

Last Sunday was quite a stormy day with rain, hail and finished with the ground covered with about three inches of snow.

The men of the Baptist church to the number of 14 met at G. L. Gordon's to cut wood for the church last Saturday and cut about 10 cords. It is said the minister was about the best chopper in the lot.

## SUTTON NORTH RIDGE

Miss Lilla Curtis begins her school April 18th.

Alston Ham visited Durward McShane Sunday.

J. O. Noyse was in Barton on business recently.

Roger Curtis is expected home from Cincinnati this week.

Charles Dunklee is a business visitor in Pennecook, N. H.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Grant were visitors in Lyndonville recently.

J. Wesley Batchelder was in Barton several days last week.

Avery R. Curtis and Howard Blake were in Barton Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Grant spent Sunday at Charles Gero's in East Haven.

School begins Monday, April 18, with Mrs. McShane as teacher.

Kathleen McFarland visited her sister, Mrs. Ray Gray, over the week-end.